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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/918,056	07/30/2001	Maryann Lehmann	89976-1499	3257

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WINSTON & STRAWN
PATENT DEPARTMENT
1400 L STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3502

EXAMINER

MANAHAN, TODD E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3732

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application N .

09/918,056

Applicant(s)

LEHMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Todd E. Manahan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 9.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1-9, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Graham et al (United States Patent No. 5,177,694).

Graham et al disclose a method for restoration of a patients tooth comprising generating a color image of the patient's tooth with a digital camera, such as a Canon RC-250, and forwarding the electronic image to a dental laboratory where it is evaluated by the technician and feedback given. Regarding claim 2, the dentist forwards with the photo the type of restoration to be manufactured, which constitutes "a preliminary treatment plan". It is also to be noted that the

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dentist inherently designs a “preliminary treatment plan for addressing the dental needs of the patient”, by deciding on the tooth to be restored and the type of restoration needed.

Claims 1-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Morris et al (United States Patent No. 6,190,170 cited by applicant).

Morris discloses a method for restoring a patient’s tooth. The method includes generating an electronic image of a patient’s tooth in a dental office, wherein the image includes color information representative of the patient’s tooth shade (col. 2, lines 20-27); These images are then forwarded to a dental technician (col.4, lines 56-58), wherein the technician evaluated them and if necessary, suggests restorative options to the dentist (col. 5, lines 13-14, col. 7, lines 39-46). It is to be noted that the dentist inherently performs the step of “designing a preliminary treatment plan for addressing the dental needs of the patient”, when upon examination of the patient, it is determined that a restoration is needed. Regarding claim 2, this “preliminary treatment plan” is forwarded to the technician when the dentist requests that the technician create a restoration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 10, 18-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Graham et al.

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Graham et al disclose the invention essentially as claimed except that the image is sent via courier on a diskette rather than sent by direct computer link or e-mail. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to send the electronic image via direct computer link or email rather than on a diskette by courier in order provide quicker delivery thereof to the laboratory.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 25 November 2003 and 22 January 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument's that Graham et al. do not disclose the step of "designing a preliminary treatment plan for addressing the dental needs of the patient", it is agreed that Graham et al. do not explicitly recite this step. However, this step is inherently performed by the dentist after examination of the patient, when the dentist determines that restoration ("dental needs of the patient") is required and how best to accomplish the restoration, such as deciding upon using a cap, a prosthetic tooth, or a veneer.

In response to applicant's argument's that Morris et al. do not disclose the step of "designing a preliminary treatment plan for addressing the dental needs of the patient", it is agreed that Morris et al. do not explicitly recite this step. However, this step is inherently performed by the dentist after examination of the patient, when the dentist determines that restoration ("dental needs of the patient") is required and how best to accomplish the restoration, such as deciding upon using a cap, a prosthetic tooth, or a veneer.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

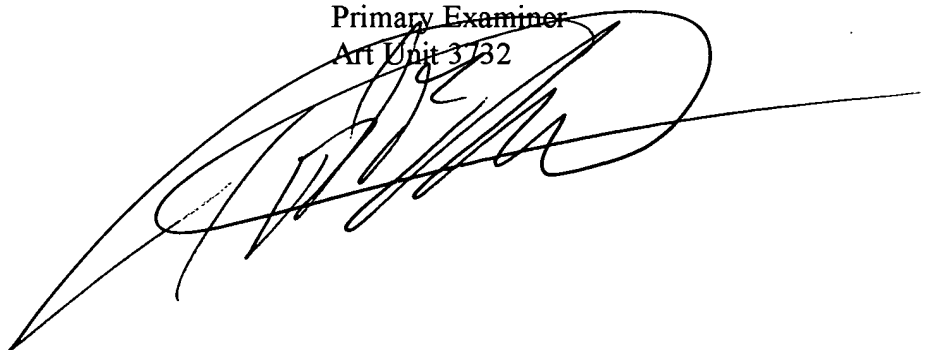
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Todd E. Manahan whose telephone number is 703 308-2695. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on 703 308-2582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703 308-0858.

Todd E. Manahan
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3732

T. E. Manahan
2/2/04

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, likely belonging to Todd E. Manahan, is written over the printed name and title.